ACF Alliance of Champions for Food Systems Transformation

PROGRESS SNAPSHOT:
RWANDA

Section 1: National Food System Snapshot

Category	Rwanda
Top three commodities produced (2022)	Bananas: 2.2MT Fresh cassava: 1.4MT Sweet potato: 1.4MT
GDP and agriculture as % (2023)	$14.1 billion (of which agriculture is 27%)
Global Food Security Index (2022)	88th (of 113)
Prevalence of undernourishment (2021-2023)	32%
Land use for agriculture as % (2021)	81%
Total emissions (2023)	7.49MT
Emissions from Agriculture (2023)	2.6MT
Total population and % employed in agriculture (2022)	13.8 million (56% employed in agriculture)



Aerial view of farmland over Rwanda

Photo by Rowan Simpson

Section 2: Membership Criteria Progress

National Pathways	Rwanda has mainstreamed food systems transformation and the 10 Action Areas within its National Pathway and 5th Strategic Plan for Agriculture Transformation (PSTA-5)
NDCs & NBSAPs	Rwanda is currently updating its NDC with support from GIZ, with a particular focus on 3 key sectors: Agriculture, transport and waste management.
Reporting	The ACF Secretariat is currently working with countries to develop a framework for demonstrating progress, to be in place by COP30.

Section 3: Priority Action Areas Highlights

10 Priority Action Areas	Flagship initiatives/ activities
3. Build and enhance the resilience of food systems	Rwanda's RICA Seed Centre focuses on improving farm resilience and productivity via capacity building of local seed companies Rwanda is developing a Climate Smart Agriculture Investment Plan to mobilise funding for flagship projects, including seed systems, irrigation and post-harvest facilities. Rwanda has launched the '5 Fruit Trees per Household Project', planting 6 million trees over the next 5 years with a focus on areas with high levels of stunting to improve food and nutrition security. Fruit trees are also being planted in schools, health centres, and youth-centred orchards. The project initially covers 11 pilot districts across Rwanda, with the ambition to expand.
5. Protect and restore nature	Examples of flagship projects to protect and restore nature through the Rwanda Green Fund include the Green Gicumbi and Green Amayaga projects, focusing on forest plantation, land-slide control and soil erosion.
8. Reduce food loss and waste	Rwanda has committed to: • Halve per capita food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses in farm production and along supply chains by 2030. • Halve post-harvest losses by 2025, with those for maize, beans, and rice reduced to 1% by 2030. • Provide 100% of farmers with access to services for post-harvest treatment and storage of food crops.

Section 4: Additional Highlights

Since the launch of ACF at COP28 in November 2023, Rwanda has:

1. Pitched its US$1.68bn legacy program, which aims to promote sustainable agriculture whilst delivering innovative financing for the avocado, chili, potato, poultry and beef supply chains, including through a new risk-sharing facility and an agri-food SME catalytic financing mechanism, coupled with improved governance and management.

2. Established a Food Systems Coordination and Delivery Unit with the support of AGRA.

3. Launched the US$100m Rwanda Dairy Development Project (RDDP), which will improve value chain efficiencies, thus improving farmers' income and enhance nutrition.

4. Organized the Africa Food Systems Summit, gathering 5,000 participants from all around the globe.



A woman takes in the harvest, Ruhengeri, Rwanda *Photo by Mad Knoxx*

Section 5: Collaborations

1. Signed the €95m Rwanda-Belgium bilateral cooperation agreement to support agriculture, health and urbanization with a particular focus on developing sustainable, resilient and inclusive agricultural value chains.

2. Signed the €100m sustainable agriculture financing initiative between EIB Global and the Bank of Kigali. This will focus on helping farmers and agribusinesses prepare for extreme weather, increased drought and increased rains.

3. Trained 400 Farmer Service Insurance Centre agents crops and livestock through a collaboration between the World Food Program and Radiant Insurance.

4. Established a Partnership with the One Acre Fund that aims to plant 1 billion trees across Sub-Saharan Africa by 2030, including in Rwanda

Section 6: Priorities for Further Work

1. Through PSTA-5, Rwanda aims to:
   - Increase productivity of priority food crops by 50%.
   - Increase credit to the agriculture sector from 6% to 10% whilst scaling up agriculture insurance.
   - Achieve an annual agriculture output (GDP) growth of 8.2%.
   - Create 644,000 off-farm jobs in agrifood systems.

2. Scale up use of modern inputs and technologies to maximize productivity by investing in digital technologies and scaling up climate-smart agriculture.

3. Increase access to agriculture finance and risk sharing facilities.

4. Integrate agriculture within global value chains for higher value products.

Section 7: Priority Areas for Investment

1. Research and Development for innovation and extension, including to improve access to resilient seed varieties.

2. Improve large scale irrigation such as the Gabiro Agribusiness Hub and on-farm mechanisation to deliver Rwanda's goal of increasing productivity of priority food crops by 50%

3. Enhance Productivity and Resilience.

4. Develop and expand inclusive markets and value addition.